



A friendly workshop where men can gather, work together, share skills and knowledge or just have a chat over coffee.

I've just spread some old newspaper on my bench and noticed a headline that warned we may have to close our schools if the virus we knew about was to get established here. The paper was dated 29th February and, at the time, it seemed a bit unlikely. How rapidly things changed; within just a few days any planning was overtaken by events and The Shed having to close became an inevitable decision - if not a mandatory one. It soon was. We will be open again as soon as official guidance tells us it is safe, we hoped this might be as early as June but that seems pretty optimistic now. We will keep members posted.

Summer 2020 may well go down as the year of the weed-free lawn, of meticulously well-organised cupboards and the year we finally got around to editing and sorting all those photographs languishing on phones, chips, discs, sticks or 'drives' of some sort. And (confession time here) I'm sure there are plenty of us with an analogue equivalent: i.e. wallets from Boots and Snappy Snaps secreted in drawers and boxes. Having so much time on our hands is certainly a challenge but it perhaps presents an unusual opportunity as well. Some jobs may have been dodged because any perceived reward is outweighed by the time or effort needed – but having plenty of time can shift this balance. 'The Repair Shop' has become hugely popular 'reality' TV despite a fundamental flaw – at no point does 'reality' strike and the customer gets an invoice. Would it make better telly if time and effort were totted-up in cash terms or if some treasured heirlooms were not allowed past a skip at the workshop doors? Probably not. But money is not the point – value here is about the pride, skill and dedication of the repairer and the priceless emotional investment people can have with physical objects.

Shedders with workshops at home are keeping busy and, without time constraints, are tackling projects that might otherwise have sat on the back-burner for a while. The antique tea-tray was brought in to the Shed having badly warped causing veneers to pop-off and the side rails to split and part company. Now, out of sight below the original surface veneers, the tray has a new, flat and stable core and new rails have been laminated using new and old mahogany veneer.

The picture shows the tray after the first of many coats of French polish. The second is a new one for The Shed – a garden library (we scratched our heads too). The idea we were presented with was to make a weather-proof cabinet in a suitable style for storing books in the garden. Let's hope that restrictions lift in time for it to see use this summer.



**The Shed will re-open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 - 4:00 at a future date to be confirmed. Watch this space!
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Or for more info call Dave Saunders; 01296 714164**